

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5 are pending in this application. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Pham in the December 16 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action indication that claim 4 includes allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been placed in independent form to expedite prosecution.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,107,280 to Ohashi et al. ("Ohashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,449,151 to Yokota et al. ("Yokota"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi in view of Yokota and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,092,632 to Agulnek. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

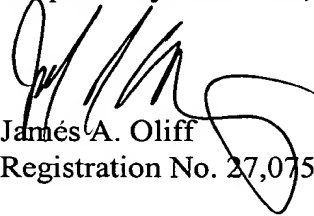
As agreed in the interview, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 4. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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